

From: Chris
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 1:01pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I'm am writing to express my outrage and disapproval of the Proposed Final Judgment in United States v. Microsoft.

While I find most of the remedies proposed in this settlement with out any value as a deterrent to Microsoft's anti-trust behavior, I am greatly concerned about provisions that not only don't act as a deterrent, but will help to enhance and encourage further anti-trust, anti-competitive behavior in the future.

Specifically, Microsoft's right to appoint a member to the oversite board and that member's right to influence the selection of the third member. Where else would someone guilty of so many criminal acts be allowed to chose and pay(!) their judges and jailers! This 'oversite board' has no responsibility to report their findings to the public, no resources, freedom of access, or motivation to fully investigate further anti-trust behavior, and no teeth to punish Microsoft if it happens to find that behavior. So, I have to conclude that the only function they will serve is to provide effective camouflage for continued and ongoing anti-trust and anti-competitive behavior on the Microsoft campus.

I am also appalled by Microsoft's right to circumvent requirements to disclose API and interoperability information by claiming it discloses 'secret' information or by claiming the group or individual requestion the information is a legitimate business. As an Open Software developer and advocate, Microsoft's stated belief that GPL licensed software is 'a cancer' and that Open Source Software degrades 'legitimate' software development business, would leave any reasoning person to conclude that GNU/Linux developers would never qualify, in Microsoft's opinion, to receive API or interoperability information. Since Microsoft has publicly stated that GNU/Linux is a serious competitive threat to it's server business, this settlement provide a very effect method to attack and injure one more of it's competitors.

As one of many, many programmers that depend on Open Source Software for their livelihood, I ask you to, please, not approve this settlement.

Thank you for your time, respectfully,

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